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District of Arizona*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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COOLIDGE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO DEALING FIREARMS WITHOUT A LICENSE

PHOENIX – James Wilbern Stokes, 65, of Coolidge, Ariz., pleaded guilty in federal district court in on April 9 to an information charging him with Dealing in Firearms Without a License.

Stokes admitted that between August 6, 2000, and April 15, 2005, he sold more than 50 firearms at a Coolidge flea market without first obtaining a federal firearms license. Stokes purchased the firearms from licenced gun dealers and resold the firearms at a profit. Stokes admitted that he bought and sold the firearms for the purpose of making a profit and not for the purposes of his own collection.

A conviction for Dealing in Firearms Without a License carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison, a \$250,000 fine or both. In determining an actual sentence, Judge Bolton will consult the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines, which provide appropriate sentencing ranges. The judge, however, is not bound by those guidelines in determining a sentence.

Sentencing is set before Judge Bolton on June 18, 2007.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. The prosecution is being handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Emory T. Hurley, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

CASE NUMBER: WI-07-38-PHX-SRB
RELEASE NUMBER: 2007-104(Coolidge)

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